

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at page 23 to add the following new paragraphs after the (previously amended) paragraph that begins on page 22 and concludes on page 23:

Further describing certain preferred embodiments shown in the drawings and described generally above, the nucleus pulposus implants may have a substantially solid center when the implant body is in its first configuration. By way of example only, FIGS. 15A, 15B, 15F, 15G, 15H, 15I, 15J, and 22A-Q all show implants having a substantially solid center when the implant is in its first configuration. In contrast, FIGS. 15E, 15K, and 15L show implants that do not have a substantially solid center when the implant is in its first configuration.

When evaluating whether an implant has a substantially solid center when the implant is in its first configuration, it is to be appreciated that reference is made to the implant when viewed from a top (plan) view, as shown in FIGS 15A-N and in FIGS. 22A-Q. The substantially solid center referred to above does not refer to the center of the implant when viewed from an end view (or cross section) when the implant is in its straightened configuration.